December 10, 1998 dbe

Introduced by: Kent Pullen

Cynthia Sullivan Larry Phillips

Clerk 12/2/98 12/15/98

Proposed No.: **98-139**

SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE NO. <u>13377 (electronic facsimile)</u>

AN ORDINANCE relating to family and medical leaves without pay; amending Ordinance 12014, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.12.010, Ordinance 12014, Section 21, as amended and K.C.C. 3.12.220, Ordinance 12014, Section 25, and K.C.C. 3.12..250 and repealing Ordinance 7956, Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.12.245.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1: **Findings and purpose.**

In the late 1980s King County adopted a progressive policy which allows employees to take up to eighteen weeks of leave in a twenty-four-month period for "family reasons" including care of a sick family member or parenting leave at the time of the birth or adoption of a child. Under this policy, employees can take leave without pay or they can use their personal sick leave balance. Whether or not the leave time is paid, the county guarantees the employee will be able to return to his or her regular position, or a position at a similar level and pay, and the county will pay for the employee's health benefits during the family leave.

In 1993, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was adopted. FMLA provides many of the same benefits as the county's family leave ordinance. However, there are enough differences to make accurate administration of both sets of rules at the same

time very difficult. This ordinance amends certain provisions in the county's policy to make the policy consistent with federal provisions.

<u>SECTION 2</u>. Ordinance 12014, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.12.010 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Definitions. All words shall have their ordinary and usual meanings except those defined in this section which shall have, in addition, the following meanings. In the event of conflict, the specific definitions set forth in this section shall presumptively, but not conclusively, prevail.

A. General definitions.

- 1. "Administrative interns" are employees who are also enrolled full-time during the regular school year in a program of education, internship or apprenticeship. All administrative internships in executive departments shall be approved by the director. Administrative interns are exempt from the career service under Section 550 of the charter.
- 2. "Appointing authority" means the county council, the executive, chief officers of executive departments and administrative offices, or division managers having authority to appoint or to remove persons from positions in the county service.
- 3. "Basis of merit" means the value, excellence or superior quality of an individual's work performance, as determined by a structured process comparing the employee's performance against defined standards and, where possible, the performance of other employees of the same or similar class.

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4. "Board" means the county personnel board established by Section 540 of the charter.

- 5. "Career service employee" means a county employee appointed to a career service position as a result of the selection procedure provided for in this chapter, and who has completed the probationary period.
- 6. "Career service position" means all positions in the county service except for those which are designated by Section 550 of the charter as follows: All elected officers; the county auditor, the clerk and all other employees of the county council; the county administrative officer; the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office; the members of all boards and commissions; administrative assistants for the executive and one administrative assistant each for the county administrative officer, the county auditor, the county assessor, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office and for each board and commission; a chief deputy for the county assessor; one confidential secretary each for the executive, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office, and for each administrative assistant specified herein; all employees of those officers who are exempted from the provisions of this chapter by the state constitution; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part-time and temporary employees; administrative interns; election precinct officials; all persons serving the county without compensation; physicians; surgeons; dentists; medical interns; and student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county.

Divisions in executive departments and administrative offices as determined by the county council shall be considered to be executive departments for the purpose of determining the applicability of Section 550 of the charter.

All part-time employees shall be exempted from career service membership except((, effective January 1, 1989,)) all part-time employees employed at least half time or more, as defined by ordinance, shall be members of the career service.

- 7. "Charter" means the King County Charter, as amended.
- 8. "Child" means a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of an employee standing in loco parentis to the child, who is:
 - a. under eighteen years of age; or
- b. eighteen years of age or older and incapable of self care because of a mental or physical disability.
- 9. "Class" or "classification" means a position or group of positions, established under authority of this chapter, sufficiently similar in respect to the duties, responsibilities and authority thereof, that the same descriptive title may be used to designate each position allocated to the class.
- ((9)) <u>10</u>. "Classification plan" means the arrangement of positions into classifications together with specifications describing each classification.
- ((10)) 11. "Compensatory time" means time off granted with pay in lieu of pay for work performed either on an authorized overtime basis or work performed on a holiday which is normally scheduled as a day off. Such compensatory time shall be granted on the basis of time and one-half.

((11)) 12. "Competitive employment" means a position established in the county budget and which will require at least twenty-six weeks of service per year as the work schedule established for the position.

((12)) 13. "Council" means the county council as established by Article 2 of the charter.

((13)) 14. "County" means the county of King and any other organization that is legally governed by the county with respect to personnel matters.

((14)) 15. "Developmental disability" means a <u>developmental</u> disability, as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(2), as amended, attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism(($_{7}$)) or other neurological or other condition of an individual found by the secretary of the Washington state (($_{4}$)) Department of (($_{5}$)) Social and (($_{1}$)) Health (($_{5}$)) Services, or designee, to be closely related to mental retardation or to require treatment similar to that required for individuals with mental retardation, which disability originates before the individual attains age eighteen, which has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely(($_{7}$)) and which constitutes a substantial handicap for the individual.

((15)) 16. "Direct cost" means the cost aggregate of the actual weighted average cost of insured benefits, less any administrative cost therefor. Any payments to part-time and temporary employees under this chapter shall not include any administrative overhead charges applicable to administrative offices and executive departments.

((16)) <u>17</u>. "Director" means the chief officer of the administrative office of human resources management.

full-time positions in the work unit in which the employee is assigned, or when viewed on a calendar year basis, ((910)) nine hundred ten hours or more in a work unit in which a work week of more than thirty-five but less than forty hours is standard or ((1040)) one thousand forty hours or more in a work unit in which a forty hour work week is standard. If the standard work week hours within a work unit varies (for instance, employees working both thirty-five and forty hours), the director, in consultation with the department, ((will be)) is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply.

- 21. "Employee" means any person who is employed in a career service position or exempt position.
- 22. "Executive" means the county executive, as established by Article 3 of the charter.
- ((22)) 23. "Exempt employee" means an employee employed in a position that is not a career service position under Section 550 of the charter. Exempt employees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.
- ((23)) 24. "Exempt position" means any position excluded as a career service position by Section 550 of the charter. Exempt positions are positions to which appointment may be made directly without a competitive hiring process.
- ((24)) 25. "Full-time regular employee" means an employee employed in a full-time regular position and, for full-time career service positions, is not serving a probationary period.
- ((25)) 26. "Full-time regular position" means a regular position which has an established work schedule of not less than thirty-five hours per week in those

work units in which a thirty-five hour week is standard, or of not less than forty hours per week in those work units in which a forty-hour week is standard.

((26)) 27. "Grievance" means an issue raised by an employee relating to the interpretation of rights, benefits((5)) or condition of employment as contained in the administrative rules and/or procedures for the career service.

((27)) <u>28</u>. "Immediate family" means spouse, child, parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, ((mother-in-law, father-in-law,)) domestic partner(($_{7}$)) and the child, parent, sibling, grandparent or grandchild of the <u>spouse or</u> domestic partner.

((28)) <u>29</u>. "Incentive increase" means an increase to an employee's base salary within the assigned pay range, based on demonstrated performance.

((29)) 30. "Integrated work setting" means a work setting with no more than eight persons with developmental disabilities or with the presence of a sensory, mental or physical handicap as specified in K.C.C. 3.12.180, as amended. This definition refers to all county offices, field locations and other work sites at which supported employees work along side employees who are not persons with development disabilities employed in permanent county positions.

((30)) 31. "Life-giving and life-saving procedures" ((shall)) means a medically-supervised procedure involving the testing, sampling((5)) or donation of blood, organs, fluids, tissues and other human body components for the purposes of donation without compensation to a person for a medically necessary treatment.

((31)) 32. "Marital status" ((is)) means the presence or absence of a marital relationship and includes the status of married, separated, divorced, engaged, widowed, single or cohabiting.

((32)) 33. "Part-time employee" means an employee employed in a part-time position. Under Section 550 of the charter, part-time employees are not members of the career service.

((33)) 34. "Part-time position" means an other_than_a_regular position in which the part-time employee is employed less than half time, that is less than ((910)) nine hundred ten hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or less than ((1040)) one thousand forty hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty-hour work week is standard, except as provided elsewhere in this chapter. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the director, in consultation with the department, ((will be)) is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply. Part-time position excludes administrative intern.

((34)) 35. "Part-time regular employee" means an employee employed in a part-time regular position and, for part-time career service positions, is not serving a probationary period. Under Section 550 of the charter, such part-time regular employees are members of the career service.

((35)) 36. "Part-time regular position" means a regular position in which the part-time regular employee is employed for at least ((910)) nine hundred ten hours but less than a full-time basis in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or for at least ((1040)) one thousand forty

hours but less than a full-time basis in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty-hour work week is standard. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the director, in consultation with the department, ((will be)) is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply.

- ((36)) 37. "Pay plan" means a systematic schedule of numbered pay ranges with a minimum, maximum and intermediate steps for each pay range, a schedule of assignment of each classification to a numbered pay range and rules for administration.
- ((37)) 38. "Pay range" means one or more pay rates representing the minimum, maximum and intermediate steps assigned to a classification.
- ((38)) 39. "Pay range adjustment" means the adjustment of the numbered pay range of a classification to another numbered pay range in the schedule based on a classification change, competitive pay data or other significant factors.
- ((39)) 40. "Personnel guidelines" means only those operational procedures promulgated by the director necessary to implement personnel policies or requirements previously stipulated by ordinance or the charter. Such personnel guidelines shall be applicable only to employees assigned to executive departments and administrative agencies.
- ((40)) <u>41</u>. "Position" means a group of current duties and responsibilities assigned by competent authority requiring the employment of one person.
- ((41)) $\underline{42}$. "Probationary employee" means an employee serving a probationary period in a regular career service position. Probationary employees are

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temporary employees and excluded from career service under Section 550 of the charter.

((42)) 43. "Probationary period" means a period of time, as determined by the director, constituting the final step in the competitive screening process for career service or for promotion from one career service position to another. An appointment to the career service, whether following successful completion of an initial probationary period of county employment or a promotional probationary period, shall not be final unless the employee successfully completes this probationary period.

((43)) 44. "Provisional appointment" means an appointment made in the absence of a list of candidates certified as qualified by the director. Only the director may authorize a provisional appointment. An appointment to this status is limited to six months.

((44)) 45. "Provisional employee" means an employee serving by provisional appointment in a regular career service. Provisional employees are temporary employees and excluded from career service under Section 550 of the charter.

((45)) 46. "Recruiting step" means the first step of the salary range allocated to a class unless otherwise authorized by the executive.

((46)) 47. "Regular position" means a position established in the county budget and identified within a budgetary unit's authorized full time equivalent (FTE) level as set out in the budget detail report.

provisional appointment. Under Section 550 of the charter, temporary employees are not members of the career service.

((49)) 51. "Temporary position" means a position which is not a regular position as defined in this chapter and excludes administrative intern. Temporary positions include both term-limited temporary positions as defined in this chapter and short-term (normally less than six months) temporary positions in which a temporary employee works less than ((910)) nine hundred ten hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or less than ((1040)) one thousand forty hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty((-))hour work week is standard, except as provided elsewhere in this chapter. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the director, in consultation with the department, ((will be)) is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply.

((50)) <u>52</u>. "Term-limited temporary employee" means a temporary employee who is employed in a term-limited temporary position. Term-limited temporary employees are not members of the career service.

Term-limited temporary employees may not be employed in term-limited temporary positions longer than three years beyond the date of hire, except that for grantfunded projects, capital improvement projects((;)) and information systems technology projects the maximum period may be extended up to five years upon approval of the director. The director shall maintain a current list of all term-limited temporary employees by department.

((51)) 53. "Term-limited temporary position" means a temporary position with work related to a specific grant, capital improvement project, information systems

technology project((;)) or other non((-))routine, substantial body of work, for a period greater than six months. In determining whether a body of work is appropriate for a term-limited temporary position, the appointing authority will consider the following:

- a. ((G))grant-funded projects: These positions will involve projects or activities that are funded by special grants for a specific time or activity. These grants are not regularly available to or their receipt predictable by the county((-)):
- b. ((1))information systems technology projects: These positions will be needed to plan and implement new information systems projects for the county. Termlimited temporary positions may not be used for on-going maintenance of systems that have been implemented((-)):
- c. $((\mathcal{C}))$ capital improvement projects: These positions will involve the management of major capital improvement projects. Term-limited temporary positions may not be used for on-going management of buildings or facilities once they have been built $((\cdot))$;
- d. ((M))miscellaneous projects: Other significant and substantial bodies of work may be appropriate for term-limited temporary positions. These bodies of work must be either non((-))routine projects for the department(($\frac{1}{2}$)) or related to the initiation or cessation of a county function, project(($\frac{1}{2}$)) or department(($\frac{1}{2}$)):
- e. ((S))seasonal positions((-)): These are positions with work for more than six consecutive months, half-time or more, with total hours of at least ((910)) nine hundred ten in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or at least ((1040)) one thousand forty hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty((-)) hour work week is standard, that due to the nature of the work have predictable periods

b. Continuing treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider.

- 4. "Health care provider" means a person whose services are of a type which are compensated under any county health care plan.
- 5. "Reduced leave schedule" means leave scheduled for fewer than an employee's usual number of hours per workweek or hours per workday.))

<u>SECTION 3</u>. Ordinance 12014, Section 21, as amended, and K.C.C. 3.12.220 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

Sick leave <u>and time off for medical and family reasons((-)):</u> A. Except for employees covered by ((paragraph H)) <u>subsection G</u> of this section, employees eligible for leave benefits shall accrue sick leave benefits at the rate of 0.04616 hours for each hour in pay status exclusive of overtime up to a maximum of eight hours per month; except that sick leave shall not begin to accrue until the first of the month following the month in which the employee commenced employment. The employee is not entitled to sick leave if not previously earned.

- B. During the first six months of service, employees eligible to accrue vacation leave may, at the appointing authority's discretion, use any accrued days of vacation leave as an extension of sick leave. If an employee does not work a full six months, any vacation leave used for sick leave must be reimbursed to the county upon termination.
- C. For employees covered by the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, sick leave may be used in one-half hour increments, at the discretion of the appointing authority.

D. There shall be no limit to the hours of sick leave benefits accrued by an eligible employee.

E. ((Department management is responsible for the proper administration of the sick leave benefit. Verification of illness from a licensed physician may be required for any requested sick leave absence.

F.)) Separation from or termination of county employment except by reason of retirement or layoff due to lack of work, funds, ((or)) efficiency reasons or separation for nondisciplinary medical reasons, shall cancel all sick leave accrued to the employee as of the date of separation or termination. Should the employee resign in good standing, be separated for nondisciplinary medical reason or be laid off, and return to county employment within two years, accrued sick leave shall be restored((,provided that such)), but the restoration shall not apply where the former employment was in a term-limited temporary position.

((G)) <u>F.</u> Except employees covered by ((paragraph H)) subsection <u>G</u> of this section, employees eligible to accrue sick leave and who have successfully completed at least five years of county service and who retire as a result of length of service or who terminate by reason of death shall be paid, or their estates paid or as provided for by ((RCW)) Title 11 <u>RCW</u>, as applicable, an amount equal to thirty-five percent of their unused, accumulated sick leave multiplied by the employee's rate of pay in effect upon the date of leaving county employment less mandatory withholdings. This provision is predicated on the requirement that, except with the written approval of the executive, the position, if vacated by a non((-)))represented employee, shall not be filled until salary savings for such position are accumulated in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the cashout.

((H)) <u>G</u>. Uniformed employees covered under the LEOFF Retirement System-Plan I shall apply for disability retirement under ((the provisions of)) RCW 41.26.120.

- ((1)) H. ((Accrued sick leave may be used for the following reasons)) An employee must use all of his or her accrued sick leave and any donated sick leave before taking unpaid leave for his or her own health reasons. If the injury or illness is compensable under the county's workers compensation program, then the employee has the option to augment or not augment time loss payments with the use of accrued sick leave. For a leave for family reasons, the employee shall choose at the start of the leave whether the particular leave would be paid or unpaid; but when an employee chooses to take paid leave for family reasons he or she may set aside a reserve of up to eighty hours of accrued sick leave. An employee who has exhausted all of his or her sick leave may use accrued vacation leave before going on leave of absence without pay, if approved by his or her appointing authority. Sick leave shall be used for the following reasons:
- 1. The employee's bona fide illness((; provided, that)), but an employee who suffers an occupational illness may not simultaneously collect sick leave and worker's compensation payments in a total amount greater than the net regular pay of the employee;
 - 2. The employee's incapacitating injury, ((provided that)) but:
- a. ((A))an employee injured on the job may not simultaneously collect sick leave and worker's compensation payments in a total amount greater than the net regular pay of the employee; though an employee who chooses not to augment his or her worker's compensation time loss pay through the use of sick leave shall be deemed on unpaid leave status;

	ii. the	care of t	he emp	loyee's ch	ild or chi	ld of the e	mployee'	s spouse	<u>or</u>
domestic partner	whose	illness o	r health	condition	requires	<u>treatment</u>	or super	vision by	the the
employee; or									

iii. care of a family member who suffers from a serious health condition.

- I. An employee may take a total of up to eighteen work weeks unpaid leave for his or her own serious health condition, and for family reasons as provided in subsection H. 6 and 7 of this section, combined, within a twelve-month period. The leave may be continuous, which is consecutive days or weeks, or intermittent, which is taken in whole or partial days as needed. Intermittent leave is subject to the following conditions:
- 1. When leave is taken after the birth or placement of a child for adoption or foster care, an employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule only if authorized by the employee's appointing authority;
- 2. An employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule when medically necessary due to a serious health condition of the employee or a family member of the employee; and
- 3. If an employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subsection I.2 of this section that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the appointing authority may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular position of the employee.
- J. Use of donated leave shall run concurrently with the eighteen work week family medical leave entitlement.

more than thirty calendar days if authorized in writing by the employee's appointing

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H. A leave of absence without pay may be revoked by the director upon evidence submitted to the director by the appointing authority of the employee indicating that ((the)) such leave ((of absence)) was requested and granted under false pretenses, or that the need for such leave ((of absence)) has ceased to exist.

SECTION 6. County employees receiving workers' compensation time loss benefits on the effective date of this ordinance, who are also receiving the county's insured benefits under an agreement between the county executive, Service Employees International Union, Local 6, representing scale operators and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 174, representing truck drivers and transfer station operators will continue to receive those insured benefits until termination of employment, return to work in a benefited position, or June 30, 1999, whichever occurs first.

1	The county executive is directed to review current policies related to family and							
2	medical leave entitlements and their applicability to medical leaves resulting from industrial							
3	injury to determine if the county's practices should be modified. This review will include,							
4	but need not be limited to, policies and practices of other jurisdictions, requirements under							
5	the federal law, and an estimate of the costs of modifying current policies and practices. A							
6	report of the findings of this review and any resulting recommendations will be presented to							
7	the county council for consideration no later than June 1, 1999.							
8	INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 9th day of March, 1998.							
9	PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 14th day of December,							
10	19 <u>98</u> .							
11 12	KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON							
13 14	<u>(original signed by Louise Miller)</u> Chair							
15	ATTEST:							
16 17 18								
19 20	<u>(original signed by Ron Sims)</u> King County Executive							
21	Attachments: None							